fixing portion and the arm to each other, a second hinge portion which rotatably connects the monitor and the arm to each other, and a resilient component for applying a rotating force in such a direction that the arm is moved away from the fixing portion. In a preferred embodiment, the arm has a front plate which extends from a front portion of the first hinge portion to a front portion of the second hinge portion, and a rear plate which extends from a rear portion of the first hinge portion to a rear portion of the second hinge portion. Preferably, in this case, the front plate and the rear plate are connected to the front portion of the first hinge portion and the rear portion of the first hinge portion with a predetermined spacing set therebetween.

[0015] According to another embodiment, the present invention is a support structure for supporting a front face unit facing a user, wherein the support structure is capable of holding the front face unit at a predetermined angle such that the invention may be grasped by a user. In this embodiment, the support structure has an arm connected to the front face unit so as to be rotatable on an axis in a lateral direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction from a front portion to a rear portion of the front face unit, a base unit connected to the arm so as to be rotatable along the lateral axis by a predetermined external force in order to support the front face unit, a signal processing portion which performs transmitting and receiving of signals between the front face unit and a computer connectable to the front face unit. Preferably, the arm has a first supporting member which extends from the front portion of the front face unit and is connected to the base unit, a second supporting member which extends from the rear portion of the front face unit, is connected to the base unit, and is linked to the first supporting member, and a resilient component which applies a rotating force in such a direction that the second supporting member is moved away from the base unit. In a preferred embodiment, the first supporting member is connected to a front portion of the base unit, and the second supporting member is connected to a rear portion of the base unit.

[0016] Preferably, a shape approximating a parallelogram is formed by a first connecting portion in the base unit to which the first supporting member is connected, a second connecting portion in the front face unit to which the first supporting member is connected, a third connecting portion in the base unit to which the second supporting member is connected, and a fourth connecting portion in the front face unit to which the second supporting member is connected. Additionally, in a preferred implementation, the support structure is mounted on a portable precision component.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] Other aspects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more fully apparent from the following detailed description, the appended claims, and the accompanying drawings in which:

[0018] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view for explaining the entire construction of a notebook PC according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] **FIG. 2** is a side view of the notebook PC in the state shown in **FIG. 1**;

[0020] **FIG. 3** is a perspective view of the notebook PC shown in **FIGS. 1 and 2** when the position and the angle of the monitor in the notebook PC are changed;

[0021] **FIG. 4** is a side view of the notebook PC in the state shown in **FIG. 3**;

[0022] **FIG. 5** is a rear perspective view of the notebook PC in the state shown in **FIG. 3**;

[0023] **FIG. 6** is an exploded perspective view of an arm, a first hinge portion and a second hinge portion, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] **FIG. 7** is a perspective view of the arm, the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion in an assembled state viewed from a point at the rear of the notebook PC, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0025] **FIG. 8** is a cross-sectional view of the arm, the first hinge portion and the second hinge portion in the assembled state shown in **FIG. 7**;

[0026] **FIG. 9** is a cross-sectional view of the arm shown in **FIG. 8** when the arm is tilted;

[0027] **FIG. 10** is a cross-sectional view of the arm shown in **FIG. 8** when the arm is laid completely flat;

[0028] **FIG. 11** is a cross-sectional view taken along the line A-A in **FIG. 10**;

[0029] **FIG. 12** is a diagram showing a change in state from the state shown in **FIG. 10** to the state shown in **FIG. 8** in the notebook PC; and

[0030] **FIG. 13** is a diagram for explaining the movements of the arm and the monitor at the time of the change in state shown in **FIG. 12**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0031] The use of figure reference labels in the claims is intended to identify one or more possible embodiments of the claimed subject matter in order to facilitate the interpretation of the claims. Such labeling is not to be construed as necessarily limiting the scope of those claims to the embodiments shown in the corresponding figures. The preferred embodiments of the present invention and its advantages are best understood by referring to the drawings, like numerals being used for like and corresponding portions of the various drawings. Reference herein to "one embodiment" or "an embodiment" means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment can be included in at least one embodiment of the invention. The appearances of the phrase "in one embodiment" in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment, nor are separate or alternative embodiments mutually exclusive of other embodiments.

[0032] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view for explaining the entire construction of a notebook PC (computer) **11** according an embodiment of the present invention. **FIG. 1** shows the state of the notebook PC **11** when the notebook PC **11** is used. **FIG. 2** is a side view of the notebook PC **11** in the state shown in **FIG. 1**.

[0033] The notebook PC **11** shown in **FIGS. 1 and 2** has a monitor unit **12** and a main unit **13**. The monitor unit **12** has a monitor (front face unit) **15** with a display screen **14**, and a hinge portion **16** which connects the monitor **15** and the main unit **13**. The monitor **15** of the monitor unit **12** functions as a cover on the main unit **13**. When the PC is